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# Shorthorns—Best for Crossing



The Shorthorn is world renowned as the "Great Improver." Under all types of climatic, management and feeding conditions, the Shorthorn has proven time and again its superiority. No single cross can work as much improvement in commercial herds as can the Shorthorn cross. The purpose of this crossbreeding presentation is not to criticize other breeds, but to point out the many advantages that can be gained through the use of Shorthorn and Polled Shorthorn bulls.

Many college tests have been conducted on crossbreeding. These all provide valuable information. However, the actual ranch experiences of practical cattlemen tell the story best. On these pages you will read the comments of numerous ranchers, representing over 25,000 cows. They have increased their profits through the use of Shorthorns . . . so can you.

# Range Bulls: How Do They Measure Up?

By JOE WINKLER III, Castle Rock, Colorado

WHEN DEFINING a range bull, all too often it is assumed that these can be bulls of lesser quality than those needed to head most purebred herds. This is often far from the truth. We as breeders must pay particular attention to the quality and condition of bulls made available to the range producer. Our breed has suffered as a direct consequence of too many bulls not "passing the test" under the stress and strain of rugged cattle country. No breed can rely on its present popularity, but must constantly keep pace with the demands of our present meat industry from the feeder, the packer and eventually the consumer.

There isn't any magic formula for the successful production of range bulls—better bulls that will go into range country and improve the quality of commercial cattle—in numbers, at a competitive price. Quality of bulls produced for the range is the first and most important consideration. Ability to convert feed economically to meet with a resultant high retail carcass value is today's goal.

An animal that through inherent ability will grow quickly, make an efficient gain and yield a carcass without too much waste is a pattern demanded by the feeder who needs to have cattle showing profitable results in his operation and commanding a top price in the marketplace. Most of the top bulls of the breed today would no doubt be used in commercial herds except for prohibitive prices making it economically impossible. More often, sons and grandsons of these extremely top bulls are available at a feasible cost and in numbers to make it possible for commercial breeders to have considerable selection.

## Develop soundly

When quality is assured, range bulls need some special development to assure their successful use. These basic principles may serve as a guide to more favorable results where production of range bulls is concerned, both from the aspect of the purebred breeders and of the commercial breeders utilizing these animals to the best advantage.

Since fertility and soundness are qualifications that are very essential in range bulls, it should be emphasized that sales, whether private or consignment, should require a fertility test of all bulls over 15 months of age. These results should be made a mandatory part of the footnote where used or furnished to the buyer. To simply say a bull has been fertility tested, is not enough. A positive analysis should be given for quick evaluation. This would result in better understanding for all concerned.

Start with a good calf because a bull will be only as good as his genetic capabilities. A poor calf will look better with

age and condition, but will not improve his offspring unless he has the inherent capability to do so.

Grow him out right. Far too often bulls offered through sales are fitted to the detriment of the animals and his future usefulness. A bull with condition looks his best, and this is as it should be. We are still in a merchandising business and offering your product in the best possible light is just good business, but a good healthy condition should not be confused with obesity. The kind of feed is important and the proper carbohydrate-protein ratio will assure good growth, muscling, and an active sound animal that will go to work when necessary.

## Watch feet

Good feet and legs are part of this general pattern. If a bull needs corrective trimming of hooves before he is used there is something drastically wrong with the genetic makeup of those bloodlines that will lead to serious problems as the bull gets older and heavier and needs to travel in vigorous fashion to earn his keep. Not enough attention has been given this problem and we must be more severe in eliminating this costly hazard. Lots of exercise gives a bull a chance to develop muscularly where needed. It also should be mentioned that general health is essential and the bull must be free from any communicable disease.

Good breeding pays off. Many qualities such as good hair, proper horns and other valuable breed characteristics are additional premiums that can be achieved by using that better bull.

The progress in improving the general level of commercial herds is directly dependent on the quality and number of bulls made available to this market by the purebred industry. We are gaining ground, but don't for one moment think we have come far enough. Competition today demands constant improvement not only to continue to expand as a breed, but also to insure our very existence.

The commercial livestock industry is the backbone of any breed of cattle and there are vivid examples in all breeds. Growth of a breed is directly proportional to the expansion of the commercial base. Any emphasis our breed can make to supply only the highest quality bulls, conditioned properly for range use, encompassing efficient beef producing abilities, in numbers at a price profitable both to seller and buyer, would be the greatest insurance for the future success of Shorthorns.

Range bulls are a special breed—highest quality bulls conditioned to do a successful job of producing profitable cattle for the nation's feedlots. The market for this kind of bull will be ever increasing.



*The vitality and vigor of these Shorthorn crossbreds show the improvement so desired by commercial cattlemen.*

# SHORTHORN BULLS SIRE CALVES OF HEAVIER WEANING WEIGHTS

**H**OW LONG have Shorthorns been a part of the Hawkins Co. operation?

Hawkins Cattle Co., under their former name of Pacheco Cattle Co., had both commercial and registered Shorthorns from 1909 to 1930. When we sold out there were approximately 1,200 registered cattle. From 1930 to 1949 we were purely commercial with Hereford cattle. In 1949 we started a small herd of registered Shorthorns for the purpose of raising our own range bulls to cross with our commercial Hereford cows.

**How many bulls do you use annually?**

We use about 75 bulls and replace 15 to 20 of these annually.

**Do you raise these yourself or are some purchased?**

Until two years ago we had to buy part of our replacements but we are now self-sufficient and raise all our own.

**What type of bull do you look for when seeking sire replacements?**

We look for size — 1,800 pounds and up. Sound legs with good bone. Length of body — especially from the hooks back to the tailhead. Plenty of depth — no round bodied, dumpy devils. Masculine heads. When you get these qualities the fleshing will take care of itself.

**How do Shorthorn bulls fare under range conditions? Do they get out and work well?**

Our Shorthorn bulls are just as active as any others that we have used of other breeds. In fact, a couple of neighbors who have tried some Shorthorn bulls have actually complained to me that they move around and travel too much.

**Do working Shorthorn bulls hold up in flesh reasonably well?**

It so happens that our breeding season coincides with our best grass season. In most years our bulls come in after an 80 to 90-day stay with the cow herd on the range, carrying more flesh than when they were turned out.

**How have your calves sold, on a pound basis, with those of your neighbors?**

For many years our calves have sold for a price at least equal to the top paid for heavy calves in our territory. Calves weighing 350 to 400 pounds generally command a slightly higher price per pound but not high enough to anywhere equal our number of dollars per calf. I am sure that our annual dividend per cow is well above our neighbors.

**Have you any data to show how they have fed out in the hands of feeders?**

The operators of four different feedlots in California have told me that our calves have outdone all of the other several thousand head which they have handled in the same season.

**Do you have any comparison as to your weaning weights and those of other herds in your area?**

For many years we have taken other cows and calves on pasture at Fort Klamath. These have been from a number of different owners and most of them have the reputation of being top quality commercial herds of other breeds. These have been weaned and sold at the same time as ours from the same pastures. Our calves have always outweighed these others by a wide margin.

**What is the composition of your present cow herd? Mostly straight Shorthorns, Shorthorn-whiteface crossbreds, or do you still maintain some straight whiteface cows?**

There are only a few straight whiteface cows left in our

herd. The bulk of them are first and second cross Shorthorns with a sprinkling of third cross.

**What do you look for in a cow that is retained for breeding purposes?**

We have been increasing the number of our breeding cows and have done a minimum of culling of our replacement heifers. We discard only those that are quite undersized or light boned and an occasional one that is lacking in conformation.

**How are these cows handled? When dry? When nursing? When about to calve?**

The cows are handled the same the year around. They run on good grass pasture with no supplement and take care of themselves.

**Do you have calving problems?**

Very little calving trouble. Our riders try to see the first calf heifers every day. The older cows are seen only about twice a week.

**What do you like about the Shorthorn and how do you think they are superior to other breeds?**

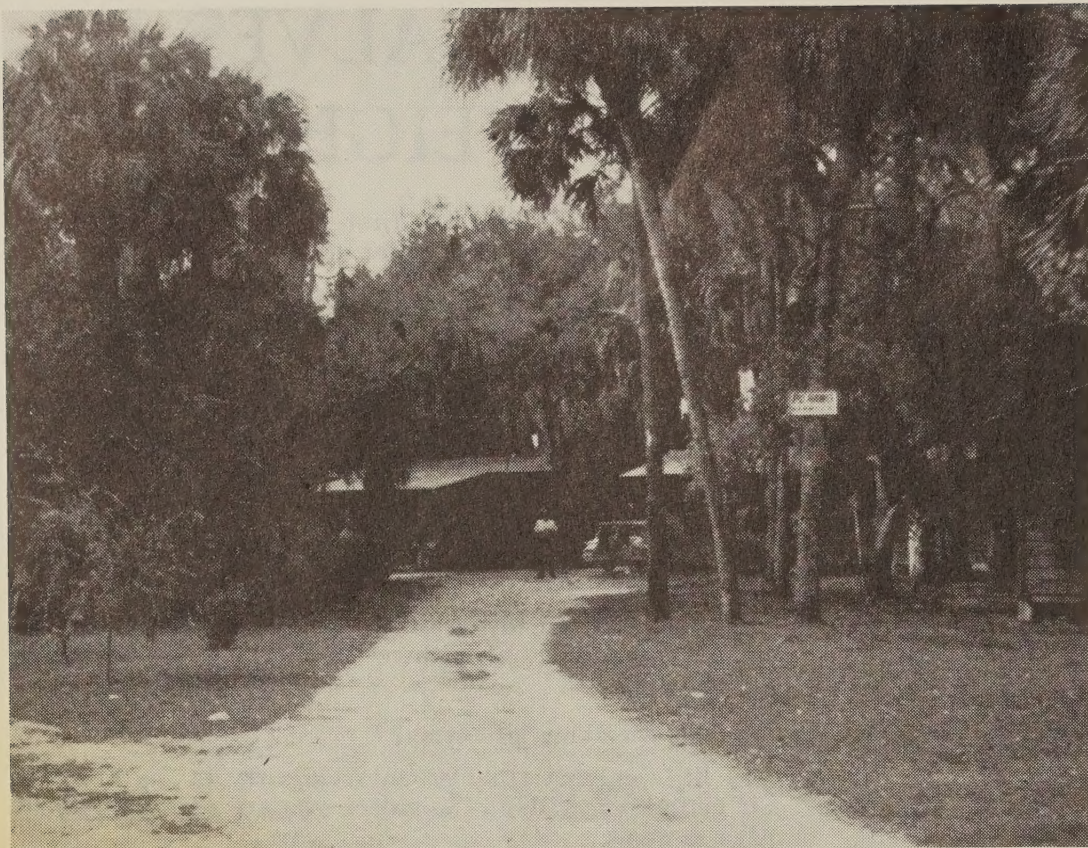
Shorthorn cows, on the average, are superior milkers to those of other breeds. The ones that will not do a good job of raising a calf are very rare indeed.

Shorthorns are more docile and under range conditions handle with less excitement and consequently do not lose so much weight when being worked.

These two factors combined with the natural gaining ability of the breed are bound to result in a heavier calf at weaning time.



*These calves weighed 531 lbs. at weaning*



*The entrance to Dr. Arthur H. Weiland's Florida ranch where Shorthorns are improving the native Shorthorn cattle.*

**M**OST SHORTHORN breeders who know Dr. A. H. Weiland think of him as the spark behind the Sangamon District Shorthorn Association or as the owner of Elmcrest Farm, Pawnee, Ill., one of the breed's leading herds. Some realize he is a famous surgeon whose patients travel from all parts of the country to see him at his Coral Gables, Fla., clinic. A few of you may have heard that he owns a ranch in the Jim Valley of South Dakota and one in Florida. Unless you have been to the Florida ranch you cannot realize its scope. It is proof of the value of Shorthorn bulls for crossbreeding under tough tropical conditions.

It has been my good fortune during the last eighteen years with The Shorthorn World to travel to all parts of North America, but I confess that duty in Florida in mid-February when the snow was six feet deep in Aurora, Ill., was one of the most pleasant tasks I have undertaken. I learned a lot at the

Weiland Ranch, but having known Doc for many years it should have been no surprise. I have never known this man to tackle anything without doing it well.

Dr. Weiland's original thought in leasing this 25,000-acre property in the most exotic portion of Florida's Everglades was to use it as an occasional weekend hunting retreat. The area abounds with game of all kinds. It is doubtful if there is better quail hunting anywhere and wild turkeys walk right through the camp site.

An additional bonus to this pleasure came in the advent of the cattle operation. It has become a very successful business venture. Some people would call this luck, but usually the Doc Weilands of this world make their own luck. Because he is a "doer" with boundless energy, a scientist with a livestock background and an organizer who would have succeeded in practically any walk of life, it is no surprise that he put the land to use. It is no surprise that it turned out

## SHORTHORN BULLS IMPROVE 'NATIVE FLORIDA CATTLE

On Dr. A. H. Weiland's 25,000-acre ranch, rugged Shorthorn bulls are adding pounds and quality to every calf crop.

By DON LONGLEY

to be a practical, profitable ranching enterprise.

### Calves top market

Most important to our readers is the improvement and profit he has achieved directly through the use of Shorthorn bulls. The calves bring the top dollar in Florida. From 1954 to 1962 the calf crop was purchased by the same feeder who came all the way from Arizona to Florida to buy them. He bought them right at the ranch, weighed them at the nearest scales, and paid Weiland Ranch the highest price of that week at the Belle Glade market. These cattle were then shipped by rail to Arizona and eventually as finished beef went on the Los Angeles market.

### "Bring camping clothes"

In December of each year at the Sangamon District Sale, which is held at Elmcrest Farm, Doc would ask when I was going to visit the ranch. When I did get around to making final arrangements, I didn't think it would be too



*From left are Don Longley, publisher of The Shorthorn World; Mrs. Longley; Dr. Arthur H. Weiland, and his ranch manager, Clyde Bishop. This picture was taken next to one of the "jungle jeeps" mentioned in the story, as the group was on the way to the camp site in the Florida Everglades.*



*Some of the partners in the Weiland Florida ranch are, from left, Judy Weiland Coon; Dr. Arthur H. Weiland; Patsy Weiland Hutson; and Mrs. Arthur Weiland.*

polite to ask too many questions about the accommodations. We were simply told to bring camping clothes. Doc, sensing that my wife, Therese, and I visualized the Everglades as nothing but a vast swamp, did a good job of laying it on as we traveled the 100 miles out from Coral Gables. He had us thinking we might have water moccasins and alligators for bed partners.

Nothing could be further from the truth. While the camp site has all the charm one expects of this tropical area — great hanging moss trees, wide expanses of grazing, an abundance of flowers, tropical plants and birds — it also has all the comforts of a modern bunkhouse, dining area and cookhouse. The latter was complete with a most important part of the operation, the cook, Chester, a retired Pullman chef who prepares quail that is sheer ambrosia — quail that Doc hit and I missed.

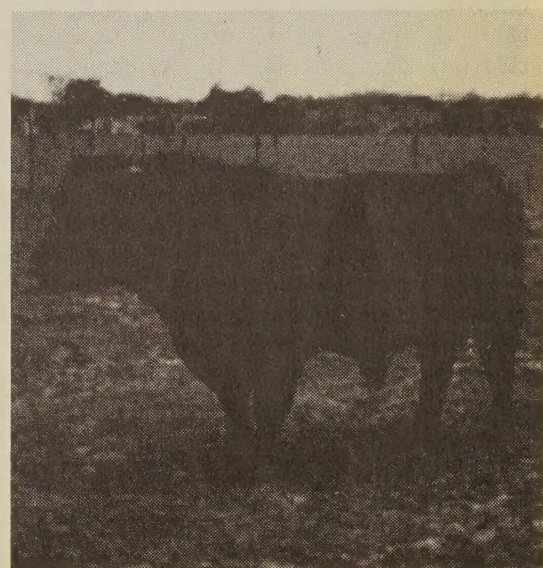
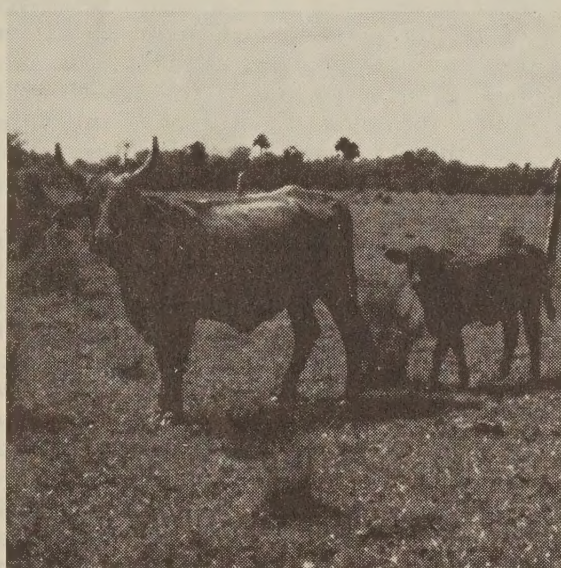
#### 25,000 acres

The ranch encompasses 25,000 acres, all in Hendry County, the nearest town being Immokalee. It is nicely laid out and beautifully fenced. As is typical of this area, the pastures are very large, not cross-fenced. Practically all the land in this area is owned by the Hendry family. It is all leased. None is ever for sale. The Weiland lease is on ground "high" for the area. It appears to drain well into the ditches. Although there are some areas where the cattle stand in surface water, most of the pasture land is dry.

Dr. Weiland was born on a ranch near Ashton, S.D. There were nine children in the family. His father, who had migrated to South Dakota in 1877, was one of the



*Some of the native Florida cows with crossbred calves sired by Shorthorn bulls.*



*A native cow with a calf sired by a Shorthorn bull. The bull at right is typical of those used on the Florida ranch property. At left below is one of the Polled Shorthorn bulls recently shipped to Florida from the Midwest.*



first Shorthorn cattlemen in the state. He brought his original Shorthorns in from Kentucky. The herd was essentially a commercial operation, but young Weiland learned early the importance his father attached to a top bull.

After graduating from Carlton College and the University of Chicago with a speciality in the growing field of orthopedic surgery, he set up practice in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. In 1928 he was convinced by a fellow surgeon of the great growth potential in the Miami area.

#### Buys "cracker cows"

Originally the plan of leasing the wild Everglades property was for hunting, but as time progressed the natural cattle potential of this lease was too much for the South Dakota farm boy. In 1934 he purchased his first "cracker cows." No effort was made to buy cows of any particular breed or color. The emphasis was on securing local cattle, acclimated to the Everglades. The cows were of native Florida and Brahma extraction, but today, after generations of improvement, they are of good beef type, hardy and rugged and do a top job of raising calves.

The extra milk to get these calves off to a fast start has resulted from the use of Shorthorn bulls. A number of the original females were purchased from the well-known Florida rancher Bob Roberts, father-in-law of Ellis Giddens.

Dr. Weiland is quick to point out that the most important day in the history of the ranch was when Clyde and Caroline Bishop came in 1938. Clyde has been manager ever since. He handles the entire spread with one helper. He is considered one of the best cattlemen in south Florida. Fencing and equipment are in top shape. The equipment consists of a new John Deere tractor, a pick-up truck and a couple of "jungle jeeps" used mainly for hunting.

The cows are handled in the most practical manner imaginable. The cattle are on grass the year around. Neither the cows nor the calves receive any supplemental feeding — no creep feed, no hay, no protein. The only thing they get are minerals free choice from the mineral boxes in the pastures.

"The important thing," commented Doc, "is that it works."

# Shorthorns . . . The Great

Ranchers testify as to their reasons for using Shorthorn bulls . . . Shorthorns can increase  
YOUR commercial profits.

**F**OLLOWING the spring sales, The Shorthorn World sent a questionnaire to all Shorthorn bull buyers at major sales in the range areas. The purpose of the questionnaire was twofold. First, to seek information about their reasons for purchasing Shorthorns and to learn of their experiences with bulls of our breed. Secondly, to find out their opinions as to which characteristics our breeders should pay greater attention in their breeding programs and what they felt our breed could do to further popularize Shorthorns in their areas.

This article deals solely with the first purpose . . . their reasons for buying Shorthorns and their experiences with our breed. Another article will cover the second part of their answers.

Below are brief comments gleaned from questionnaires which carried the owner's signature. These emphasize the importance of Shorthorns in the beef improvement programs of ranchers all over the country:

**C. A. Mallett, Mallett Cattle Co., Miles City, Mont.** — "Our cow herd contains 600 Angus and crossbred cows. We have been using Shorthorn bulls for four years and now have 30 Shorthorn bulls, our entire bull battery, in use. We pur-

chased Shorthorn bulls to get a better calving percentage, a heavier calf and a better feeding animal. We want a herd of crossbred Angus-Shorthorn cows. Shorthorn crossbreds get about 100 pounds heavier when mature. They have quieter dispositions than Angus and raise a choice feeder calf when bred to any beef breed. They drop a high percentage of thrifty calves which wean about ten percent heavier than straightbreds. We like Shorthorns most for their good gains and good dispositions. I think the Shorthorn cross will eliminate a lot of the cancer eye and womb troubles of the Hereford."

**Joseph Menne, Decor, Calif.** — "We annually use 30 to 35 bulls on our 350 head of Shorthorns and Angus cows. Currently we are using 25 Shorthorn bulls. Our family grew up with Shorthorns as our ancestors came from the Shorthorn part of the world . . . the British Isles. We use Shorthorn bulls because we get better calves, more weight, more milk and better dispositions. The Shorthorn cow holds first place in any breed. They are the best. Keep them that way. It is very dry in our part of the state during the summer but despite this, our Shorthorn cows give plenty of milk for their calves. These calves weigh up to 650

pounds when weaned. We have been using Shorthorn bulls for 75 years and they have performed satisfactorily for us."

**Simpson Finnell, Jr., San Jose, Calif.** — "I just plain like Shorthorns. They have good calves and give more milk. They rustle and gain on grass or hot feed and our Shorthorns have always handled well. My herd consists of 75 Shorthorn cows and these are mated to Shorthorn bulls. We have been breeding Shorthorns for 60 years and they have performed satisfactorily in most instances. My father and both grandfathers used Shorthorn bulls from their first introduction into California which is almost one hundred years ago. All of the comforts of youth . . . education, automobile etc, came from the Red, White and Roan. I worked with them all my early life and now drive 220 miles every other Friday just to spend four days with them. I am building my herd to 200 cows. I even feed out all my Shorthorn steers so I can look at them longer."

**Bill Griffell, Columbus, Mont.** — "Shorthorn bulls perform well at all times. Our 200-head cow herd is made up of 50 percent whitefaces and 50 percent whiteface-Shorthorn crossbreds. We



# Improvers

are now using six Shorthorn bulls. I have raised purebred Shorthorns in the past and seem better able to pick out the good Shorthorn bulls than the good ones of other breeds. The Shorthorn crossbreds always are better cattle in the feedlot than the straight whitefaces. (I feed out my own cattle to a choice grade.) I admire Shorthorns most for their doing qualities and easy feedlot dispositions. I have never had a cancer eye and very little udder trouble with my Shorthorns or Shorthorn crossbreds."

**Clarence Burr, Heese Land & Livestock Co., Reno, Nevada** — "Our 600-head cow herd is made up of Shorthorn-Hereford crossbreds. Of the 25 bulls we are using five are Shorthorns. We buy Shorthorn bulls to improve the milking ability of our replacement heifers and to eliminate cancer eye."

**Loren Uhrig, Hemingford, Nebr.** — "Shorthorns are easy to work with, have good dispositions and put on gains easily."

**L. D. Gabbert, Meadow, S. D.** — "We have 100 Shorthorn cows which are mated to four Shorthorn bulls. My dad was a Shorthorn man and I have been using Shorthorn bulls for 35 years. The breed's strongest points are their weight for age, freedom from dwarfism and cancer eye."

**G. E. Baird, Inverness, Miss.** — "We started to use Shorthorns on our 200-head whiteface cow herd to get crossbred gains. We have used Shorthorn bulls for 10 years and presently have four in use. We admire Shorthorns most for their gainability."

**Henry Vincenus, Fernbridge, Calif.** — "We started using Shorthorn bulls on our 70-head whiteface herd to obtain the advantages of hybrid vigor. We like Shorthorns because they have no cancer eye, no dwarfism and are better milkers."

**Don Jones, Wilsall, Mont.** — "We like Shorthorns for their ruggedness and gaining ability. Our 51-head cow herd is all Shorthorn."

**T. V. Williams, Castleton, Va.** — "Color, size and gaining ability are the Shorthorn strong suits. We maintain a herd of 100 Shorthorn cows and have used Shorthorn bulls for 30 years."

**Perry Oien, Kadoka, S. D.** — "I bought Shorthorn bulls to increase the milking ability of my herd. I think crossbreds make better cows. We maintain a 100-head whiteface herd and are currently using four Shorthorn bulls."

**Jack Cooper, Lloyd, Mont.** — "We have been using Shorthorn bulls for five years and are currently using 12 on our 255-head herd of whiteface and whiteface crossbred cows. We started with Shorthorn bulls to increase the



*Scotts On The Rocks . . . Shorthorns are bred to take it. They thrive on all types of terrain and under all weather conditions. These Shorthorns are part of the Melvin Scott & Son herd, Powell, Wyoming.*

milk qualities in our herd. Shorthorn cows are good breeders and I like the way Shorthorn bulls each take a part of the breeding field and keep from bunching up."

**W. O. Lucy, Warrenton, Va.** — "We are using six Shorthorn bulls in our 159-head herd. This is the second year we have used Shorthorn bulls and our first year's experience was satisfactory. Shorthorns are easy to handle and produce a quicker maturing calf."

**Ernest Goodman & Son, Chadron, Nebr.** — "We have raised Shorthorns for 50 years. Our cow herd numbers 130 and we are using four Shorthorn bulls. Our commercial calves have been purchased by Purdue University for five years. We like Shorthorns most for their gentle dispositions and quick gains."

**W. C. Dorsey, Charlottesville, Va.** — "We started to use Shorthorn bulls purely on an experimental basis. Our herd contains 75 cows of Angus and Angus-Shorthorn crossbreds. We are using a Shorthorn and a Polled Shorthorn bull. We like Shorthorns for their size and quick growth and have received excellent prices for our crossbred steers and yearlings."

**Wayne Robbins, Florence, S.D.**—During a discussion of the merits of Shorthorn feeders, Robbins said, "We feed about 700-800 annually and when purchased at the same time and same calf weights—of the first hundred head ready for market—EIGHTY were always SHORTHORNS. So we went Shorthorn exclusively."

*During the past few years hundreds of Shorthorn bulls have been purchased and used by commercial cattlemen and have proved and are proving today the heavier weaning weights, quicker maturity, and meaty and trim crossbred calves are here today.*

*All this means more money in the bank for the cattlemen using Shorthorn bulls.*

*Why don't you investigate the advantage of using Shorthorn bulls?*

For information contact:  
**American Shorthorn Assn.**  
**8288 Hascall Street**  
**Omaha, Nebraska 68124**



*Crossbreds like these continue to add pounds and profit to the Hall Cattle Co. operation at Alliance, Nebraska. Crossbreeding has been practiced on this ranch for nearly one-half a century. (Ted Aegerter photo)*

## HALL CATTLE CO. PROVES CROSSBREEDING VALUE

**Shorthorns have played a major part in cattle improvement program of Alliance, Nebraska firm for nearly half a century.**

By TED AEGERTER, fieldman  
American Shorthorn Ass'n



*Three generations of Halls who have been responsible for the progress on this famed Sandhills ranch through the years. At left is Gene Hall, founder of the Hall Cattle Co. Next is son, Albon, "ramrod" for many years, and at his left are his sons, Jack and Don, who are currently carrying on the impressive Hall tradition for quality crossbreds. (Ted Aegerter photo)*

CROSSBREEDING, which in recent years has taken its place with performance testing, carcass evaluation and progeny testing, may provide new areas of exploitation for college professors and cattle experts, but you can't sell it as a new idea to the Hall Cattle Company, Alliance, Neb. This outfit has been crossbreeding Shorthorns and Herefords continuously for nearly a half-century. Some 15 miles south of Alliance is the famed ranch.

Around the turn of the century, a young cowpuncher, Eugene A. Hall, observed, without benefit of a formal education, the many benefits of crossbreeding in the old Ogallala Land and Cattle Company which he managed. He decided then that when he started his own operation he would crossbreed Shorthorn and Hereford cattle.

The second man at the helm was Albon Hall who successfully managed Hall Cattle Company and who carried on the same program regarding crossbreeding.

Third in line and present manager is Don Hall. This likable young fellow, like his father and grandfather, is strong in his conviction that crossbreeding is the answer to selling more beef. Equally as strong is his conviction that the best cross is the use of Shorthorn bulls. Says Don, "Hall Cattle Company is not only just a job for me, it is and has been guided with the belief that the heritage that in time will belong to the succeeding generations must be kept strong."

At this writing the ranch includes some 50,000 acres, about 2,000 head of cows, 250 replacement heifers, and since the steers are sold as yearlings, this means that there is continually 1,300 to 1,400 head of yearlings, 1,300 to 1,400 head of calves, as well as nearly 100 range bulls.

Beginning with a white face herd of cows shortly after 1900, Shorthorn and Hereford bulls have alternately been used on a five-year cycle for each breed. At the end of each five-year period, the cow herd gradually swings from a

*(Continued on Page 9)*



*At left we see some of the reputation Shorthorn crossbred calves in the corral at the Donahue & Rutledge spread at Cheyenne, Wyoming. Their calves enjoy a wide demand and bring premium prices.*

## Shorthorn Bulls Perform Well On Wyoming Ranch

**Donahue & Rutledge find Shorthorn bulls shorten calving period and increase weaning weights.**

By **BOB RUTLEDGE**, Cheyenne, Wyoming

**D**URING THE Korean war, when little help was available, we had many of our Herefords snowburned. We spent six weeks doing nothing but greasing sunburned bags, and calves noses. Our death loss was small but our weaning weight was off one-third.

Then we bought some Angus bulls to cross on the Hereford cows. We were advised against keeping the heifers for breeding so we purchased some Angus cows and kept only straight Angus heifers for breeding. These crossbred Hereford-Angus steers and heifers topped the Omaha market, always brought a two-cent premium, and raised the weaning weight 25-30 pounds.

Then we ran into shy breeding problems with the straight Angus after we had gone completely to the Angus. This problem was a short, uneven crop, and a long drawn out calving period, thus we changed to Shorthorn bulls. First we purchased four from the University of Wyoming and turned them out with eight Angus bulls. The Shorthorns sired over half of that year's crop and we had a better weaning weight.

We then purchased more Shorthorn bulls and have been breeding them to Angus cows, keeping the heifer crosses. The advantages have been 50-75 pounds increased weaning weight and one to two cents per pound premium. We have 70 percent of our calves in the first three weeks of calving and have no late

calves. The crossbred calves are more vigorous from the day they are born, they are never bashful at eating, they have better carcass quality, and better rate of gain. The crossbred calves do much better in the feedlots.

We should like to buy only performance tested bulls, but there are not enough of them available, which will probably drive us into artificial insemination. We are performance testing our herd now in hopes of producing better beef animals for the feeder and to make our breeding herd even better.

By **HENRY A. PETERSEN**  
Paicines, California

**W**E RUN 200 top quality commercial whiteface cows plus about 40 replacement heifers. We use nothing but registered bulls.

Four years ago we started replacing our whiteface bulls with Shorthorns. At this time we are using five whiteface and five Shorthorn bulls.

Last year, at weaning time, our crossbreds averaged 562 pounds, which was 52 pounds over the weight of the whitefaces. We are now saving the crossbred heifers for replacement.

We have had no pink eye problems with our crossbreds. We are certainly pleased with the crossbred program as it is giving us heavier calves.

## Hall Cattle Company

*(Continued from page 152)*

white faced herd to reds and roans. It is significant that at the end of the five-year period of using Shorthorn bulls, the yearling steers usually weigh some 50 pounds more per head.

Don will tell you that there are many advantages to crossbreeding. They are the same advantages enjoyed successively by grandfather Gene, father Albon, and are strongly in evidence at the present time. They are:

1. Increased weight of the yearlings (Hall-bred yearlings usually weigh some 50 pounds more than straight bred run by neighboring ranches.)

2. This system produces cows with a better balanced milk flow. Whitefaces alone, he says, do not yield enough milk to keep the calves growing rapidly. By injecting Shorthorn blood, this handicap is eliminated. This is important to the Halls because the calves run with the cows until finally weaned by their mothers, which is usually a month or six weeks before calving again.

3. Crossbreds feed out easier according to reports from those who buy their yearlings year after year.

4. Crossbreeding improves the stamina and vitality of the calves, making it possible for them to withstand the rugged winters that is common to the Alliance region.

The Halls believe that crossbreeding, in summary, is just a more efficient method of production. When the Halls say that they believe a certain operation is the most profitable or the most efficient for them, they actually know it to be so. They keep an all-inclusive set of cost accounts on practically every phase of the ranching business and they can show you figures to prove their statements. That is why they are so sure that their crossbreeding program is sound and the best for them.

# How do we grow Commercially?

**E**XPANSION OF the Shorthorn breed, most people agree, can be measured by the size and scope of the breed's commercial base. This base is made up of not only the Reds, Whites and Roans, but also of every commercial operator who is using our bulls. In recent years, because the loss of individual size, generally speaking, of the major beef breeds, crossbreeding, with its inherent hybrid vigor, has found favor with alert commercial beef producers everywhere.

The degree of success toward expansion of our breed, in my own opinion at least, will depend upon the percentage of the commercial business we are able to acquire and maintain. The commercial cattle producer, hit hard by ever-increasing expenses, has looked to our breed for bulls that would not only give him the

hybrid vigor, but also add some other advantageous attributes toward acceptance of his product.

**"How well have we done?"**

First, since crossbreeding beef cattle is not exactly a new thing in the beef cattle business, we would not imply that

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By **TED AEGERTER**  
Assistant Secretary  
American Shorthorn Ass'n

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crossing Shorthorns with other beef breeds has just begun. We must recognize however, that the use of Shorthorn bulls has stepped up considerably in recent years and therefore the results are more clearly shown and of greater interest to the present beef cattlemen.

Because of more favorable acceptance

of crossbreds in recent years by both packer and feeder alike, it is vitally necessary that the Shorthorn breed take advantage of this situation.

On the plus side of the ledger is the fact that many Shorthorn bulls, used in crossbreeding programs, have done an outstanding job. They have sired a higher percentage calf crop. They have sired calves that weigh more at weaning time and they have put greater milking ability back into the female line. When put into the feedlot, they have out-performed many of their competitors and thus found favor with the feeder, a man who has been hard-pressed to show a profit in many instances in recent years.

Let's look at the other side of the ledger. First, many commercial breeders



*Part of the Shorthorn steers on feed at Stangl Brothers, Java, S. D.*

# Calving Results Favor Shorthorns

By CLAUD HAMPTON, Hampton Ranches, Pendleton, Oregon



*Shorthorn steers that were sold through one of the several new and expanding Kansas commercial Shorthorn sales.*

## How Do We Grow?

will drop back to bulls of their original breed in order to hold their original color pattern. This must be anticipated, to a certain degree. Then too, there are commercial men who have purchased Shorthorn bulls strictly to gain size and have been disappointed in the size of the Shorthorn bulls at maturity. If we are to supply Shorthorn bulls, that lack the size of our competitors, then the commercial producer has very little reason to use them in the first place.

### "Steps toward expansion"

Your association readily recognizes the real need for this commercial expansion. We have instituted sales both through actual management, and by giving a helping hand toward new bull sales wherever interest dictated the move. We would like to step up this program to the point where there would be at least one good range bull sale in every area of the country, particularly in commercial cattle growing areas.

The follow-up for range bull sales is feeder calf sales. These plans must be flexible, but it is our desire that every commercial cattleman using Shorthorn bulls at least has the opportunity to sell his product on an established market for crossbreds.

There are certain areas of our country that are better suited to beef cattle operations over any other line of endeavor. This simply means that the breed or breeds that supply the bulls that have enough size for age, that can reproduce their kind, and whose get are acceptable to the feedlot producer will have a ready outlet for their bulls.

We stand ready to do everything within our power to expand our commercial base. Will you do your part in this program?

**O**UR EXPERIENCE with crossbreeding may have no value statistically as we have no weight-for-age or rate-of-gain figures to support our opinions and conclusions. Also, we are a small outfit with only about 100 breeding cows.

Six years ago, my nephew, Dick Hampton, and I bought a group of registered females of another breed with the idea of starting a breeding herd. We had some Shorthorn cows and Shorthorn crossbreds at that time and a Shorthorn bull.

We had one fixed rule . . . if a cow lost a calf, failed to calve or had a disappointing calf, she went to slaughter. You have probably guessed the result.

Most of the culls have been of the other breed. We only have one of those original registered cows now.

Here is a summary of Hampton Ranches' conclusions:

1. In our setup, we have had bigger and better calves from both the Shorthorn and Shorthorn crossbreds.

2. The crossbred cows are excellent mothers and seldom have calving troubles.

3. They are gentle and easy to handle.

4. We have had no dwarfs with either our straight or Shorthorn crossbreds but have had with the other breed.

We are now building a registered Shorthorn herd and I believe we have a good foundation.

## Finds Crossbreds And Shorthorns Superior

By JACK NAPIER  
Odessa, Washington

**G**LEN WOODWARD, Okanogan, Wash., is a long-time cattleman who has found that Shorthorn crossbreds and straight Shorthorns are far superior to the productions of another breed which he raised for many years.

Some 30 years ago Woodward was a Shorthorn producer. As the trend in the West changed to another breed, he eventually worked into a herd of that breed. However, he was never satisfied with the weaning weights of his calves

as compared to those he was used to getting with Shorthorns.

Now, his present herd is about half commercial cows of the other breed and the other half is made up of commercial and registered Shorthorns. These are all bred to Shorthorn and Polled Shorthorn bulls. Both his crossbreds and Shorthorn calves weigh about 85 pounds more at weaning than did his straight-bred calves of the other breed.

In feedlot tests his steers have been making a 3.1 pounds per day gain through the entire feeding period.

Woodward prefers to use Polled Shorthorn bulls on his first calf heifers as it practically eliminates calving troubles and loss.

Crossbreds  
sired  
by  
Shorthorn  
bulls  
have  
an  
excellent  
record  
of  
top  
quality  
beef  
carcasses.



# The Ox Yoke Story

By  
MRS. ARCH  
ALLEN,  
Livingston,  
Montana

After disappointing experiences with other breeds,  
Jim Murphy turned to Shorthorns and greater profits.

IN THE YEAR 1866 Nelson Story, pioneer Montana Territory prospector, hit it rich on a gold strike in Virginia City. He had ridden through the Upper Yellowstone Valley just north of what is now Yellowstone National Park and was greatly impressed by the stirrup high grass and abundance of water. It was a natural for cattle.

With \$10,000 in folding money sewed into his clothes, Nelson Story headed for Fort Worth, Tex., to buy cattle. He purchased 1,000 head of cows with calves at foot for \$10 a pair. These cows were loud colored Mexican sport models with plenty of daylight under them to cover the ground. And travel they did. Nelson Story stamped the Ox Yoke brand on their hides and headed them for the north country in what was the first big cattle drive to come into the territory via Fort Laramie, Fort Kearney and past the Bighorns on into the Yellowstone.

*(Author's Note: The well-bred, feather-necked Reds, Whites and Roans that carry the Ox Yoke brand today are no relation of this first bunch of cattle.)*

The Ox Yoke cattle grazed the lush mountain slopes clear to the top of the divide between the Yellowstone and the Gallatin Valleys. In the winter they followed the Yellowstone River down out of the snow country as far east as Billings where the buffalo grass was exposed for winter grazing.

The same hunch that led Nelson Story to the gold in Virginia City, pecked away

at him again in the fall of 1885. Again he listened. He cashed in his herd of near 20,000 head of cattle for one million dollars. They were big honest tax-free dollars in those days.

That winter, the year 1886, was known as "The Killer Winter." The snow lay heavy clear across the Northwest Territory, and the cattle were wiped out. Hunt up the famous painting of Charles M. Russell's so aptly called, "The last of Five Thousand." It brings to life the grim realities of such an ordeal better than I could begin to tell you.

This man, Nelson Story, was the kind of a man you'd like to have for a business partner, wasn't he?

Well, Charlie Murphy, Jim Murphy's Dad, had the next best thing. He formed a partnership with T. B. Story, Nelson Story's son, and in 1919 bought the present Ox Yoke Ranch which was the choicest part of the land grazed by Nelson's Mexican sport models when it had all been open range.

The boys stocked the 5,000-acre spread with woolies. Mindful of the Killer Winter of 1886 as told and retold around many a pot-bellied stove, they put up hay for their sheep on the meadows of the river bottom. In the summer the flock wound its way up Big Creek, a sparkling knee deep stream that tumbles down from the Yellowstone-Gallatin divide.

After a few bad years in the sheep business in the early 1920's, when the snows didn't stop until July, the home-

grown hay was exhausted and the price of salt grass hay shipped in from North Dakota cost \$60 a ton to say nothing of the heavy losses of newborn lambs from the cold wet weather, T. B. Story sold out his interest in the Ox Yoke Ranch to Charlie Murphy.

The Ox Yoke brand, one of the oldest in Montana, stayed with the ranch and was kept alive on a band of 45 head of saddle horses. Charlie Murphy, like his son Jim, had a love for good horses and was always well-mounted.

Charlie and his wife, Peg, had a great appreciation for natural beauty, and it was while packing salt and supplies on the herder's string of horses up in Big Creek Basin at the summer sheep camp that the idea was conceived to move the main ranch headquarters up there and build a few extra log cabins to accommodate paying guests from the cities who might enjoy the West in a simple genuine manner, family style.

In the early summer of 1930, the great change took place. Out went all of the sheep. The Ox Yoke brand was punched on the left ribs of a herd of pale faced cattle, and if you looked under "O" you would find the name Ox Yoke, Emigrant, Mont., on a select list of Dude Ranches in the West.

The Murphys have found the Big Creek Basin as ideally situated for dudes as Nelson Story found it for cattle. The combination is unbeatable.

The snow-capped peaks are a sight to

*Dudes at the modern day Ox Yoke Ranch take a breather on a high mountain ridge.*





*Ox Yoke Shorthorns on high mountain summer range where just a dash of sage makes you realize the nicer things you have a nose for.*

behold, the fragrance of the pine needles under the high noon sun intermingled with just a dash of sage makes you realize the nicer things you have a nose for. The babble of Big Creek and the wind in the pines fills the ears with a hushed lullaby. You don't need a few little pills or a cup of hot ovaltine to put you to sleep at Ox Yoke. After a day of riding Old Paint or casting a "grey hackle" under the nose of the big cut throat trout in Big Creek, you are ready to hit the feathers early, completely at peace with the world.

The genial hospitality of Charlie and Peg Murphy, the unspoiled beauty of the West at its best, and its convenient location to Yellowstone National Park soon built a nation-wide reputation for Ox Yoke as a dude ranch.

It was not until Jim Murphy took over the ranch in 1946, after the death of his Father, that the Ox Yoke cattle came into prominence.

Jim Murphy was born and raised up in Big Creek Basin. He went to school in a little one-room country school house that wasn't "modern." There was a two-holer out back behind a gooseberry bush. With this down to earth beginning, Jim went on to high scholastic honors at Notre Dame and Harvard Business school.

Jim married Gayle McCracken, a dude from Huntington, W. Va., who is as capable of rounding up cattle and helping

with the branding as she is managing the kitchen during the summer where tastantalizing dishes are turned out in volume from the Ox Yoke kitchen. Between the two of them Jim and Gayle are growing out a new generation of Murphys to carry on the Ox Yoke tradition.

When Jim scrutinized the efficiency of the cattle operation at Ox Yoke, he wasn't happy. His first move with the white faces was to put black bulls on them.

Scattering black bulls on the range in the summer can be an exhilarating experience for a once on Sunday equestrian. But the risk is not one that an insurance agent would care to underwrite. Also there was no dependable market for the crossbred cattle he was producing. In short the whiteface cows had problems and the black bulls just added management problems to those.

Jim watched the Rigler Brothers across the Yellowstone River with their Shorthorns get the top price of all breeds of calves sold at Billings when the Montana Shorthorn Feeder Sale came up each October. He heard about the gentle disposition of the Shorthorn breed, their lack of prolapse, sun burned bags and cancer eye.

This looked like a breed worth trying, a beast that wouldn't panic when she saw a gayly dressed bouncing bit of humanity galloping across a clearing or

out of the brush, a bull that wouldn't mistake the flick of a fly rod in mid-stream for a challenge to a duel.

In 1956 the registered Shorthorn herd of J. M. Rook of Big Timber joined the Ox Yoke Ranch herd commercial cattle. These were mostly daughters of Britomac Grandee with calves at foot by Leveldale Frolic. Counting heifer calves, there were 70 head of females involved. The Rook herd had a reputation of producing winners. A roan steer out of this herd won grand championship at the California State Fair.

Jim couldn't have laid a stronger foundation than he did with this established herd of registered cows. He has been topping out his heifer calves each year and building the herd to 150 head of purebred Shorthorns. When Jim goes to Billings to the Feeder sale, he shows and sells right up with the tops. He is satisfied that his herd of Shorthorn cattle are bringing a greater return than the other two breeds did for him.

When asked what he liked most about raising Shorthorns commercially in Montana, Jim was quick to point out first the fine outlet at premium prices for his calves at the Montana Shorthorn Feeder Sale. The other great consideration for him was the breed's good disposition, ease in handling and safety around dudes. These were the answers to his problems and he found them with Shorthorns.

# Grow Them Out!

By R. B. STIMSON

Red Line Ranch, Dumas, Arkansas

**G**ROWING THEM OUT means to me the development of a ready to use product for the commercial cowman. In this case I am referring to Shorthorn bulls primarily.

If we are to expand the Shorthorn breed, it will have to be done by the use of good Shorthorn bulls on cows of other breeds in commercial men's hands. This subject readily divides itself into three categories: (1) the commercial cowman himself; (2) the bulls we want him to use, and (3) the cow herd in which these bulls are to be used.

The commercial man I'm thinking of is the cow-calf operator who makes a business of raising calves for the feed lot. He is not very interested in developing calves into herd bulls. He expects to buy a bull ready for service that will produce heavier calves of the right conformation. These calves will make a profit for him which is his primary concern.

Many of these cattlemen are ready to use bulls of different breeds for various reasons, having been victims of different kinds of trouble — dwarfism, pinkeye, lack of milk in the cow herd, slow and expensive rate of gain, etc. This breeder is going to use bulls of a different breed to correct some of the above troubles and take advantage of the re-

sultant hybrid at the same time. Let's try to be sure that he uses Shorthorns.

The bull himself comes next. Here I speak only for my own Midsouth area, but the commercial cow-calf operator is not too different whether he be in the Midsouth, the Southeast, Texas or California or Illinois. In this regard, the successful commercial operator is as discriminating in his selection of bulls as the average purebred breeder. He wants and will buy only bulls with sound feet and legs, scale, balance and evidence of good rate of gain and feed efficiency. As stated before, he wants them ready to use, not to develop, which means that they should be two-year-olds or better. If he finds the right kind he is also willing to pay for that extra age.

From our experience here in the South, we find that a bull of that age will go out and do a good job and continue to develop into a mature bull. He will then be a credit to the Shorthorn breed and to the breeder as well. On the other hand, yearling bulls, when used as they are in this area, usually come in after a breeding season looking like the "devil before day." Lots of them never develop as they should — if they survive. In this latter case, the breed and the breeder get a black eye.

The cow herd in which these bulls are to be used comes into perspective next. Here again, our different colors are a distinct advantage. There is at present no set pattern of desire for a particular color. Some prefer reds, others roans or whites. In any case, we are prepared to meet that requirement. Our rival beef breeds are not.

In my opinion the Shorthorn breed is in the same position today that the Herefords were in during the period of the early 1920s. During that time, good Hereford bulls were brought into this area, crossed on the native cattle (predominately red of Shorthorn background) took advantage of the hybrid vigor gain and the bull got all the credit for the resultant improvement in the beef herds of this part of the country. Naturally the Hereford breed flourished as a result.

Today the beef herds here are predominately black or whiteface. For various reasons as stated before breeders now are ready to cross some breed with them. If we are to improve our relative position in the purebred business, we are going to have to provide these commercial cowmen with Shorthorn bulls of the **right type, age, etc.**, to go and get and hold this potential market. To do this we will be compelled to grow them out in numbers.



Young Shorthorn bulls at R. B. and A. V. Stimson's Red Line Ranch, Dumas, Ark. The Stimsons make a practice of growing their bull calves out to about 24 months before selling them to commercial cattlemen.

# How Well Do You Know the American Shorthorn Association?

**EVEN MORE IMPORTANT THAN KEEPING RECORDS ON THE WORLD'S GREATEST BREED OF CATTLE, THE ASSOCIATION PROVIDES A FRAMEWORK FOR SERVING ALL AGRICULTURE.**

By C. D. "PETE" SWAFFAR

Executive Secretary, American Shorthorn Ass'n

**H**OW WELL DO you know your American Shorthorn Association, its purposes, its activities, its aims?

Largely its purpose is to attest to the purity of our breed and to record ancestry both for present day benefit and for future generations. This is mechanical of course and follows a set pattern. Specific requirements must necessarily be observed. To deviate from those regulations would infringe upon the integrity of not only the association, but its members as well. These registration and transfer processes may seem to become routine—not so. They are real and all of us who work with them have a genuine interest. It's surprising sometimes to learn that even though actual acquaintance is withheld, there develops a sort of kindred feeling toward each individual who records or transfers Shorthorns or Polled Shorthorns. Even though these are mechanical processes, real concern by those responsible keeps them from becoming routine.

You may wonder at times why certain clarifications are requested. It's simple. Ours is an assignment to keep all records complete and correct. Hence, I suspect all of you at sometime or another have found it necessary to furnish additional information or correct items.

But even more important than keeping records your association provides the framework in which people can find a common interest, discuss methods of approach, compete on a friendly basis, and combine the strength and unity of friends and fellow breeders for the special cause of pressing forward that thing of common interest. If one bothers to make suggestions, obviously they must be considered. If they are pertinent toward that common goal, they should ultimately be practiced.

Aside from these other activities of your association center around service to member breeders, to agriculture generally and to Shorthorns and Polled Shorthorns specifically. These services need be performed in various ways. Let's take advertising. Without doubt constant advertising must be carried out to present factual evidences of our breed's attributes; constant reminders that seed stock is available and to exhibit examples of the breed in fairs and expositions. Advertising designed to be appealing, but presenting facts, is then one of the activities requiring daily

attention along with disseminating newsworthy information. It's a broad and wide open field.

Sponsorship of programs particularly attached to breed improvement is always up for discussion. Certainly, constant improvement is an obligation of each breeder, to himself, his fellow breeders and prospective customers. These programs presently take form in the type classification, search for performances that contribute considerably to improvement, and a recognition of market needs in order to present animals that more nearly fulfill those needs. So, along with type classification there must be a method of identifying more clearly sires and dams that potentially bring about necessary changes and improvement.

It should be pointed out that a progeny testing addition to type classification is being not only considered but also actually is in the detail stage. As soon as the basically sound, practical program, through which all Shorthorn breeders can discover better guidelines in a mating program, is finalized, further information will be published. While not presuming that all breeders will enter such a production testing schedule, the program will be based on practical and inexpensive methods so that everybody who would seek more complete information about his herd may do so without it's becoming a financial drain!

## Junior activities

As you know recently a junior activities director was appointed and is at work. His approach, quite logically, is through boys and girls who are junior members of the ASA and who will of course carry over to potential junior members. Exhibition of steers and heifers by these young boys and girls certainly displays the progress breeders are making. Furnish them the right kind and they'll make you proud of both themselves and the animals. One of the chief concerns, at the moment, is organizing state junior associations. The boys and girls display an enthusiasm that's something to behold! Every association might well afford to keep an eye on the youth. It could be that an awakening might result. Somehow any boy or girl wanting a Shorthorn — steer or heifer — must be supplied. Let's all help by providing future generations an incomparable incentive.

One of the main activities of your association is a concerted effort in commercial production. Sponsorship of new bull sales and working with already established bull sales aimed toward supplying beef producers needs is being followed by work with established feeder sales and help in organizing other feeder sales. Of course, this is the ultimate proving ground, but beware of considering their needs lightly. It's an exacting market, intolerant of fads and fancies because profit potential is of utmost importance. Getting the kind of bulls into these areas that result in greater recognition is, then, a matter receiving attention.

Even though we regard the necessity of doing so as somewhat distasteful (to say the least) there are times when refereeing disputes becomes necessary. Any question has two sides. Sometimes it is difficult to scratch out a satisfactory answer, but this is part of your association activity, indeed!

Ever so briefly these are some of the activities. Now what about aims?

They are constant and unchanging. Continue to record and transfer. Keep records complete and correct. Actively engage in promotion of the breed, through continued investigation of methods and needs in order to bring about greater improvement. Provide a home for your association.

Speaking of a home, the association now occupies, for the first time in its history, its own home. It will be a pleasure indeed to welcome all to see the home in which each of you has an interest and surely a justifiable pride.

May I also be indulged a personal feeling? I'm profoundly grateful for a board of directors upon which so much dependence is placed by everyone, even those remotely associated with Shorthorns. Their approach to the endeavors of the association is detached from personal interests other than their interest in and stimulation of breeding Shorthorns and Polled Shorthorns. Have you contacted a board member lately? You'll find him willing to listen!

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**If you want to reach the top . . .  
you need Shorthorn Bull Power!**



This will tell you of some of the many experiences cattlemen in every section of North America are having in the use of Shorthorn and Polled Shorthorn bulls with cows of other breeds. The statements herein are typical of hundreds we have received.

The actual experiences of these cattlemen are far more forceful than any message from me. I do want you to know, however, that the American Shorthorn Association is ready to help you in any way . . . to find good bulls

. . . to market their cross-bred calves successfully.

If what you read here creates a desire to investigate this further . . . to put more profit into your beef cattle operation . . . then I hope you will write me. If you wish, we can arrange, at no obligation whatever, to have one of our representatives call on you to discuss the matter further.

The Shorthorn breed is moving forward. It's time for you to take a look.

Sincerely,

Executive Secretary

**AMERICAN**  
**Shorthorn**  
**ASSOCIATION**

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